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MILITARY

Negative

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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Tarnoff/P/RS	6-8-62	

INTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. Leadership. As if to prove his assertion of May 18 that he is not afflicted by any kind of "devil" or "ailment", Nikita Sergeyevich KHRUSHCHEV attended seven public functions this week and spoke at five of them. On May 25, he delivered a report over radio and television about his visit to Bulgaria.

On the 28th, he made a speech at the opening of the Italian Industrial Products Exhibit; KOZLOV, KOSYGIN, and MIKOYAN were also on hand. On the next day, Khrushchev spoke at a reception given by the visiting Mali Republic head of state, Modibo KEITA. On the 30th, he delivered an address at a USSR-Mali Republic friendship meeting, and he spoke again on the 31st, when he saw Modibo Keita off at Vnukovo Airport. Aside from this, he visited an exhibit of architectural models at the headquarters of the Moscow Soviet, in company with Kozlov, and CPSU-CC Secretary and Moscow CP City Committee Chairman P. N. DEMICHEV.

The major occasion of the week, ceremonially, was the USSR-Mali Republic friendship meeting in the afternoon of May 30, at which the entire CPSU Presidium (with the exception of N. V. PODGORNY, the Ukrainian Party Secretary) and three of the four non-Presidium members of the CPSU-CC Secretariat were present. This was the only occasion during the week when Presidium Member G. I. VORONOV appeared. The absent CC Secretary was B. N. PONOMAREV, who was last mentioned in the central press when he returned from Bulgaria with Khrushchev on May 20.

From the viewpoint of US-Soviet relations, the First Secretary's most significant public appearance during the week occurred on the evening of May 30, when he attended the opening performance of the Benny GOODMAN Jazz Orchestra. With him, in a grouping that has now become almost customary, were Kozlov, Mikoyan, and Kosygin. Mrs. Khrushchev, son-in-law A. I. ADZHUBEI, his wife, and Minister of Culture Ye. A. FURTSEVA, were also present in the First Secretary's entourage, and the Ambassador and Mrs. THOMPSON were invited to sit with the group.

The lift that Khrushchev's attendance at the Benny Goodman performance had given to the morale of Soviet spectators was discernible in the mood of those who attended the Embassy reception immediately afterwards. Jazz, at least of the moderate variety presented by Mr. Goodman, appears thereby to have received a cachet of respectability. Unable to lick it, the Soviet leadership now seems almost ready to join it.

2. Status of the "Anti-Party Group". The Soviet public has once more been reminded of the co-responsibility of the leaders of the "anti-Party group" for the crimes of the STALIN era. Procurator-General R. A. RUDENKO, in an article published in Pravda on May 27, asserted that "... the anti-Party group, headed by MOLOTOV, KAGANOVICH, and MALENKOV, ... were personally guilty of many perversions and abuses of power and of mass repressions during the period of the cult of personality..." (Despatch No. 1070, May 31).

Rudenko's article was written to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Soviet procuracy. His reference to the personal guilt of the "anti-Party" group was reminiscent of similar charges made during and following the XXII Party Congress.

A Moscow lawyer who is in a position to be fairly well informed believes that Rudenko's reversion to this charge does not mean that criminal charges will be brought against members of the "group". He states further that Malenkov has been expelled from the Party, that Molotov's case has been discussed in the Party and his expulsion decided against, and that Kaganovich "is a sick man" (A-928, June 1, 1962).

3. Higher Military Council of the USSR. A foreign diplomat who has provided reliable information in the past has described the organization of a "Higher Military Council of the USSR". This Council is presumably responsible for contingency planning during peacetime, but its functions and scope could be quickly expanded in time of war. Top CPSU-CC leaders regularly attending meetings of the Council are said to include BREZHNEV and SHELEPIN, as well as Defense Minister MALINOVSKY, other top military leaders, and heads of Central Committee sections on Defense Technology, Aviation, and "others" (Despatch No. 1065, May 29, 1962). The structure of the Council seems to parallel that of military councils known to exist at lower levels.

4. Soviet Border Guards Confiscate Prayer Books. Izvestiya (May 28), in an item devoted to the 40th anniversary of the Soviet Border Guards, revealed that members of this service stationed at Sheremetyevo International Airport, on the outskirts of Moscow, have been confiscating literature carried by travelers. Among the items seized were a prayer book of an unspecified denomination and a copy of The Face of America (Despatch No. 1077, June 1).

EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

5. Laos. The major statement on Laos to appear during the week was Khrushchev's TV-radio talk on May 25, in which his comments on Laos were significant for their restraint. He avoided threatening language in discussing American landings in Thailand, stating only that this action seriously complicates the outlook for settlement in Laos. He reiterated Soviet adherence to the goal of an independent neutral Laos and cited his agreement with President KENNEDY on this matter during their Vienna meeting a year ago.

Conforming to this low-key treatment, the Soviet press throughout the week devoted only limited coverage to developments in Laos. A Pravda international review stressed the contention that RLG forces were the first to violate the cease-fire and referred to documents captured at Nam Tha which allegedly prove that PHOUMI forces were under instructions to disregard the cease-fire. Several minor papers reported that US forces, according to the Thailand press, have on occasion already entered Laos.

A Moscow public lecturer on May 27 repeated the assertion that the Soviet Union prefers a neutral and independent Laos. He claimed that the Pathet Lao

already controls two-thirds of Laos and could take the remainder easily. However, he explained, this will not occur because such action would invite US intervention.

6. Berlin/Germany. An unusually harsh Observer article on Berlin was published in Izvestiya on May 30. Directed against the Secretary's Canberra speech, the Observer concentrated on criticism of US refusal to agree to liquidation of the occupation regime in West Berlin. The article claimed that the Secretary's position in the speech is incompatible with a solution of the West Berlin problem by negotiation and questioned how the present US-Soviet dialogue can therefore succeed. Arrogant in tone, the article repeated the separate peace treaty warning and reaffirmed the Soviet threat that Western rights in Berlin will automatically cease upon the conclusion of a treaty with the GDR. The article apparently reflected Soviet disquiet over indications that the Western Berlin policy is hardening.

The latest RUSK-DOBRYNIN meeting on May 30 was noted in all Moscow papers without comment.

In contrast to the relatively pessimistic Observer article, a public lecturer on May 27 presented an optimistic account of the status of US-Soviet discussions on Berlin. He praised the latest phase of these talks as representing "a tremendous step ahead." Although he referred to difficulties raised by Chancellor ADENAUER and President DE GAULLE, the lecturer gave his audience a clear impression that a great deal has been accomplished and remaining problems can be resolved. He discussed the Western press accounts of the four-point US proposal at some length, taking exception only to the International Access Authority. He specified that the proposals for joint FRG-GDR committees, general declarations of non-aggression between NATO and Warsaw Treaty Pact, and for the non-transfer of nuclear weapons constitute significant progress. The IAA proposal, on the other hand, is unreasonable, he said, because it would leave the GDR acting only as an agent.

The Embassy received a Soviet note on May 29 [redacted] The note, which was short and pro forma, [redacted]

Meanwhile, the incidents which occurred along the Berlin sector border were only perfunctorily reported in the Soviet press as resulting from Western provocations.

7. AFRICA

Keita Visit. Chairman of the Mali Republic, Modibo Keita, concluded his 10-day official state visit to the Soviet Union on May 31. A joint Soviet-Mali Communique, signed on May 30, (1) supported general and complete disarmament under strict international control, (2) advocated the creation of a nuclear free zone in Africa, (3) condemned imperialism and colonialism in any form, (4) warned against neo-colonialism, (5) called for

the ending of interference by "imperialist forces" in the home affairs of the Congo and the removal of all military personnel and mer[illegible]ries, and (6) advocated the seating of Communist China at the UN. On Germany and Berlin, the communique rather surprisingly stated only that the Mali Side familiarized itself with the position of the Soviet Union on the question of concluding a German peace treaty. This apparent caution is perhaps explained by the fact that Keita did not wish to offend Bonn, a capital included in his present itinerary.

The communique was not too explicit on the question of trade and aid. It noted that the Soviet Union will render technical assistance and material aid to Mali for the construction of additional objectives and aid in the training of national cadres. The need to expand cultural exchanges was also acknowledged.

Khrushchev took the occasion of a Mali-Soviet friendship meeting held on May 30 to express Soviet concern over the possible expansion of the Common Market into Africa, claiming that this would be tantamount to "collective imperialism" and only serve to deprive African state of genuine independence. Despite his obvious disappointment with nationalist-bourgeois movements and nationalist leaders, including self-styled socialists, it seemed predictable that the Soviets would continue to cultivate these forces in Africa, pending the establishment of Communist parties and the formation of an organized working class which might undertake the construction of what the Soviets consider a genuine Socialist revolution.

Dahomey. A goodwill mission from the Republic of Dahomey headed by Vice-President Sourou Migan Apithy is currently visiting the Soviet Union. In a talk with N. N. Organov, Vice President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Mr. Apithy expressed the hope that his mission would help strengthen relations between Dahomey and the Soviet Union and further the process of establishing contacts between the two countries. Mr. Apithy has also been received by Leonid Brezhnev, Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and nominal chief of state.

Guinea. The Soviet press announced during the course of the week that Alfa Diallo, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Guinean Republic, had arrived in Moscow. Diallo met with Foreign Minister Gromyko on May 30 in the presence of Amadu Diallo, the National Inspector of the Guinean Republic on Questions of Administration, and the Guinean Ambassador, Sory Caba. The nature of the discussions was not disclosed.

8. National Conference on Disarmament. A National Conference on Disarmament and Peace comprising some 700 delegates met in Moscow on May 30-31. The purpose of the conference was to elect and instruct delegates to the World Congress on Disarmament and Peace, scheduled to be held in Moscow from July 9-14. In addition to voicing support for general and complete disarmament, the delegates were instructed to express the support and solidarity of the Soviet peoples with the "just struggles of oppressed peoples for their national liberation, the abolition of all shapes of colonialism, and the withdrawal of foreign troops." This serves as an indication that the World

Congress will be used as a platform for pursuing Soviet foreign policy and propaganda objectives in fields other than disarmament.

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MILITARY

Negative.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Boris H. Klosson

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Counselor for Political Affairs

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9. More Criticism of Literary Encyclopedia

The first volume of the Short Literary Encyclopedia was the subject of renewed criticism in a lengthy article appearing in Literaturnaya gazeta on September 18 (Embassy's A-256, August 17). The author of the article, B. RYURIKOV, is well-known for his illiberal views regarding the past and future course of Soviet literature. The article echoed many of the strictures previously lodged against the Encyclopedia by the literary conservatives' newspaper, Kultura i zhizn', on July 29, although its argumentation was more reasoned and its tone less strident.

Ryurikov found some aspects of the Encyclopedia worthy of praise: its reviews of foreign literature were "solid," and it was said to be of help in restoring historical truth with regard to many writers "who suffered during the period of the cult of personality." About three-quarters of the article, however, was strongly critical of the Encyclopedia for alleged errors of omission and commission. Ryurikov's main point was that the editors of the first volume of the Encyclopedia were guilty of the same errors and oversimplifications that marred Soviet literature during the STALIN period--only this time on the other side of the ideological fence. He also censured the work in general for polemicizing: "After all, this publication, like any other, should serve the cause of the unity and solidarity of Soviet literary people" (italics in original).

The Embassy has learned on good authority that the editors of the Encyclopedia were not alarmed by the initial attack in Kultura i zhizn', which apparently evoked only a yawn in Soviet literary circles. This new attack in the liberal Literaturnaya gazeta could be more serious. Work on the second volume of the Encyclopedia is nevertheless going forward. An Embassy officer was recently told that the second volume is to be published in January or February 1963. It will be interesting to see whether Volume Two will serve the cause of "unity and solidarity" as it has now been enjoined to do. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

10. Softening of Anti-Crime Propaganda?

The continuing absence of major crime stories in the press, coupled with the dropping of the designation MVD in several republics (Embassy's A-401, September 20), suggests a regime decision to moderate the tone of its anti-crime propaganda. The last major economic-crime story noted by the Embassy was published six weeks ago, and the last report of an execution for a crime of violence, three weeks ago. Party aktiv meetings conducted in some of the republics in connection with the renaming of the MVD as the Ministry for the Maintenance of Public Order have stressed the constructive role of the militia in "preserving public order" and protecting the honest citizenry. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

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